

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 37
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles W. Holt, Sr.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Charles "Charlie" W. Holt, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Charlie was an exemplary educator, outstanding citizen, and friend of many citizens of Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lawrence County, he was the son of Virgil G. and Laura LaCroix Holt, two early educators in Lawrence County. His mother was a classroom teacher and his father lead a distinguished career in education as a classroom teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools in Lawrence County from the early 1900s into the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, he completed his grammar school and high school education in Lawrence County in 1929; and

WHEREAS, He had a natural interest in athletics. He played team sports which included basketball and baseball as well as individual sports of swimming and tennis; and

WHEREAS, Charlie received an athletic scholarship, working in the school cafeteria, to pay his tuition, room and board; and

WHEREAS, playing in the first football game he ever saw, Charlie had a distinguished career as one of the best interior lineman of his time at Middle Tennessee; and

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WHEREAS, Charlie played basketball and baseball and also won the school's tennis tournament, and, in 1989, he was inducted into the prestigious MTSU Blue Raider Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Middle Tennessee State Teacher's College in 1933; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Holt's teaching career began in 1933 in Lawrence County at the Loretto High School where he coached basketball and taught math; and

WHEREAS, Charlie established the first football program at Loretto High School in 1938; and

WHEREAS, after leaving Loretto High School, Charlie served for four years as the principal of Collinwood High School in Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, Charlie was a veteran of World War II, and after proudly serving in the United States Navy as an instructor, teaching algebra and math to Naval personnel, he returned to Lawrence County and resumed teaching; and

WHEREAS, Charlie was principal of Loretto High School from 1946 to 1951, and earned a Masters Degree from Peabody College; and

WHEREAS, he served as the Superintendent of Schools for Lawrence County from 1951 to 1968; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Charlie devoted long hours of hard work to make his county's schools capable of developing and educating its youth; and

WHEREAS, Charlie valued fairness to the extent that if one county team was playing another county team, he would sit as close to the middle as possible and would not cheer for one team over the other; and

WHEREAS, from 1968 until his retirement in 1976 as Superintendent of Schools, Charlie worked to educate not only the people of Lawrence County but also the State of Tennessee, and

WHEREAS, during his meritorious employment as an educator, Charlie worked in the basic skills program of the Adult Education Department for the State of Tennessee; setting up programs to help adults learn to read and learn basic math and also assisting with education for the blind; and

WHEREAS, Charlie generously contributed his time and talent to many civic enterprises including service as a member and past president of the Lawrenceburg Lions Club; Secretary of the Loretto Masonic Lodge, for 34 years; President of the local Lawrence County Retired Teachers Association; President of the Middle Tennessee Retired Teachers Association; and as an elected member of the Lawrence County Board of Education and the former Chairman of the AARP Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, a humane and caring individual, Charlie actively worked and donated his time to the American Association of Retired Persons and was instrumental in getting state and national legislation approved to help our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Holt evinced his faith as a member of the Downtown Church of Christ, having taught the same Sunday School class since 1954, a class which began as the Young Adult Class; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-six years, Nell Gibbs Holt; their children, Charles W. Holt, Jr., Nelda Graham, Laura Haynes and Sara Margraf; and

WHEREAS, Charlie's foundation for his love of education and sports was set during his childhood and early adulthood in Lawrence County; he worked tirelessly to promote his belief that public education was one of our most important and basic rights; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the bountiful life of this exemplary man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor Charles "Charlie" W. Holt, Sr., remembering with admiration his

exemplary character and his many selfless contributions to his community and the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Charlie Holt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.